

To: Jefferson County Local Government Officials
From: Rob Klotz, Director of Planning and Zoning
Date: February 4, 2011
Re: Jefferson County Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan Draft

Jefferson County is in the process of updating its Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan. This plan will update the County's 1999 Plan and respond to the new State farmland preservation program commonly known as the Working Lands Initiative.

Enclosed you will find the first draft of Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan. It provides a vision and guidelines for growth, development, and land preservation in Jefferson County over the next decade and beyond. The updated Plan will function as the primary policy document setting forth directions for how Jefferson County intends to preserve agricultural production, farmland, environmental corridors, and rural character, while accommodating compatible growth in planned locations, forms, and densities. It includes graphics and maps that communicate this vision, including farmland preservation maps for each town in the County.

The County is widely distributing the draft Plan to encourage feedback at this stage in the process. **Please review the document and send your questions or comments to me by 4:00pm on March 8th.** On March 9th the Steering Committee will be meeting to discuss the draft Plan and changes that will be incorporated into the second draft of the Plan in April. In the mean time, we will be working on amendments to the County's Zoning Ordinance to reflect policy refinements in the updated Plan. The Planning and Zoning Committee and the County Board will go through the formal Plan and ordinance adoption processes this summer. I will be contacting you about the Towns' role in these processes in the spring.

The County is also hosting an Open House on February 21st to allow members of the public and local government officials to review the draft Plan and provide feedback prior to formal adoption by the County Board. Residents are encouraged to attend this "drop in" event at any time between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. There will be a presentation at 7:15p.m. The Open House will be held in rooms 8 and 9 at UW-Extension located at 864 Collins Road in Jefferson.

Please feel free to contact me at (920) 674-7130 or RobK@jeffersoncountywi.gov with any questions or comments. Additional information about this project is also available on the County's website www.co.jefferson.wi.us.